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WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956



Dr. W. BENTLEY, L.M.S.S.A.
Medical Officer of Health.

P. H. G. GRIMMETT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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FOR THE YEAR 1956

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Wednesfield.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

The Birth Rate for the year shows an increase on last year being 20.21 against 18.98 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales was 15.7.

The Death Rate was 6.91 against 7.67 per 1,000 of the population in 1955 which appears very favourable against the Rate of England and Wales, this being 11.7.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 25.13 compared with 35.62 in 1955 and 10.04 in 1954. The actual number of deaths for the year was 12 against 15 last year, and 4 in 1954. 7 of the deaths occurred under 4 weeks of age. Premature birth accounted for 2 of the deaths 1 was due to Congenital Malformation and 1 of Cerebral birth injury. The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 23.8 against 24.9 in 1955.

No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

Combined with my report is that of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

In conclusion I would like to express thanks to all who have co-operated in the work of the Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM BENTLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chairman : COUNCILLOR S. BROOMHALL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

W. BENTLEY, L.M.S.S.A.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

P. H. G. GRIMMETT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

A. L. MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

CLERK :

Mrs. M. CARROLL.

Area	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,515 acres
Population (estimated)	.....	.....	.....	.....	24,355
Inhabited Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,378
Rateable Value (April 1st, 1956)	.....	.....	.....	.....	£93,867
General Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	22/-
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	£378

DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT

The District is bounded on the North by Cannock Rural District, on the North-West and South-West by Wolverhampton County Borough, and on the South-East, East, and North-East by Willenhall Urban District.

The elevation is approximately 500 feet above sea level, being part industrial, with a Rural aspect on the Northern side.

The inhabitants are engaged in a variety of occupations, Agricultural workers, Iron and Steel workers, Steel Trap makers, Keysmiths, Locksmiths, Foundry workers, Paint workers, Coal Miners.

The general health of the population is very satisfactory.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTH RATE

Males		Females		Total		Rate Per 1,000
L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	
258	6	212	3	470	9	20.21

STILLBIRTHS—13

6 males 7 females

DEATH RATE

Males	Females	Total	Rate Per 1,000
96	68	164	6.91

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under one year

Males		Females		Total		Rate Per 1,000
L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	
7	—	5	—	12	—	25.13

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :

From Sepsis NONE

From other causes NONE

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS

Year 1956

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and Under 3 months	3 months and Under 6 months	6 months and Under 9 months	9 months and Under 12 m'ths.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia (Accident)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malformations	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Birth Injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
All Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	—	2	—	7	3	—	2	—	12

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

CAUSES OF DEATH	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
All Causes	75—58 133		92—64 156		73—67 140		88—82 170		96—68 164	
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blood Disease	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1
Influenza	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coronary Disease	12	2	10	3	9	1	11	12	10	7
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	3	5	—	3	—	1	—	1	1
Other Forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cancer Malignant Disease	10	9	21	10	16	18	21	18	18	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3
Diabetes	—	3	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—
Bladder Diseases	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	7	7	11	7	8	12	8	12	5	9
Other Heart Disease	8	7	5	12	6	8	8	3	12	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	5	4	4	1	5	1	2	4	3
Bronchitis	9	3	4	2	5	2	4	6	8	5
Pneumonia, all forms	4	2	—	—	—	1	6	1	5	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	1	—	—	2	—	3	—	1	2
Gastritis, Diarrhoea & Enteritis	1	—	—	1	—	2	3	3	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation	—	1	4	1	1	—	2	—	—	1
Road Accidents	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—
Suicide	1	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	2	2
Other Deaths from Violence	2	1	4	3	2	1	2	2	3	5
Other Defined Diseases	9	8	18	15	12	9	12	14	20	9
Causes ill defined or unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated Population	17,400		18,250		21,000		22,170		24,355	
Total Deaths	133		156		140		170		164	
Death Rate	7.64		8.54		6.99		7.67		6.91	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUP

Short list of causes of Death in use in England and Wales	under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 3 Years	3 and under 4 years	4 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 20 years
All causes									
1. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm lung, bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Leukemia, Aleukemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Other circulatory Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Other Disease of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. All Other Accidents	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOR YEAR 1956

20 and under 25 years	25 and under 30 years	30 and under 35 years	35 and under 40 years	40 and under 45 years	45 and under 50 years	50 and under 55 years	55 and under 60 years	60 and under 65 years	65 and under 70 years	70 and under 75 years	75 and up- wards	M.	F.	Total
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	1	2	6	2	8
—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	1	1	—	4	3	7
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	5	8	2	10
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	2	6	5	9	14
—	—	—	—	1	2	3	2	2	3	1	3	10	7	17
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	2	3	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	2	10	12	7	19
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1	4	3	7
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	7
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	3	2	8	5	13
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2
—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4	1	15	18	9	27
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	5	8
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	2	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

In accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, Health Services are provided by the local Health Authority, namely, the County Council, the organisation and administration being in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ramage. Wednesfield is included in the Health Area No. 9 of the County Scheme, Dr. Kynaston of Wednesbury Area Medical Officer of Health.

No. 9 AREA HEALTH OFFICE : 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.
Telephone No. : Wednesbury 0279.

As regards General Hospital and Specialist Services, their administration is vested in the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the County Buildings, Stafford.

Ambulance Facilities.

This service is provided for under Part III of the National Health Service Act by the County Council.

MAIN AMBULANCE STATION : Richards Street, Darlaston.
Telephone No. : 2591

I have found the service to be highly satisfactory.

Nursing in the Home.

The County Council provide services as one of the benefits to be obtained under the new Health Service. A qualified nurse gives professional service to neccessitous non-infectious cases.

Home Help Service.

This service is organised by the County Council and operates from the Area Health Office, 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Valuable advice and assistance may be obtained at this centre. The times of attendance are as follows :—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE :

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :

Alternate Mondays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WELFARE CLINIC :

Methodist School, Well Lane.

Maternity cases are provided for by the Women's Hospital, New Cross Hospital and Rosemary Ednam, Maternity Home.

Three midwives now serve the District.

Hospitals.

The Royal Hospital, the Women's Hospital and New Cross Hospitals are all within easy reach. Admissions being arranged by the Medical Practitioners.

Tuberculosis.

The Dispensary for the District is situated in Wolverhampton.

The sanatoria available are :—

For males :—Prestwood Sanatorium.

For females :—Groundslow and Yarfield.

For children :—The Limes, Himley.

Nursery.

The Day Nursery situated in Lichfield Road has been maintained at a high standard of efficiency throughout the year though not used to its full capacity.

Every possible precaution was taken during the sporadic outbreak of poliomyelitis touching the nursery and I would commend Matron Smith for her efforts.

Water Supply.

The supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes is good and adequate and is obtained from Wolverhampton Corporation. I am indebted to Mr. Brian L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Water Engineer for the following report :—

Source of supply. River Worthe at Cosford.

Boreholes at Cosford, Dimmingsdale, Hilton (Shropshire), Tettenhall, Stableford, Goldthorn Hill—Goldthorn Hill borehole is used only rarely and Stableford was not taken into service until February this year.

Distributed Water.

1. The water supply of your area has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity.
2. There were 869 post treatment samples of water taken and all proved satisfactory, both bacteriologically and chemically.
3. There is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action of the water.
4. There has been no known contamination of the distributed water.

Registration of Births and Deaths.

The following are the times and places where the District Registrar Mr. A. W. Tunley may be seen each week.

	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
MONDAY	Calves Croft, Willenhall.	Hall Street, Bilston.
TUESDAY	Bilston.	Willenhall.
WEDNESDAY	Willenhall.	Wednesfield Church Institute. 3 to 5 p.m.
THURSDAY	Bilston.	
FRIDAY	Willenhall.	Bilston.
SATURDAY	Bilston.	

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1956

DISEASES	FINAL NUMBERS AFTER CORRECTION												Total Cases Admitted to Hospital	
	AGE PERIODS—YEARS													
	All Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 upwards		
Diphtheria, including Membranous Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	30	—	6	21	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Ophthalmia	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	—	2	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	100	8	54	36	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	33	2	22	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	183	11	84	66	6	6	—	6	1	3	—	—	—	6

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

30 cases were notified compared with 41 in 1955. No death occurred.

Diphtheria.

No case has been notified for 6 years. This is very satisfactory and no doubt due to the large percentage of children immunised.

Food Poisoning.

Two cases of Food Poisoning arose during the year.

Enteric Fever. No case occurred.

Measles.

33 cases were notified against 318 in 1955. One death occurred.

Whooping Cough.

100 cases were notified against 29 in 1955. No death occurred.

Encephalitis Lethargica. No case occurred.

Influenza and Pneumonia.

During the year 4 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 9 in 1955 and 4 in 1954. There were no deaths from Influenza but 7 from Pneumonia.

Tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there remained on the register 220 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 110 males and 110 females, and 76 persons, 37 males and 39 females, suffering other forms of Tuberculosis, a total on the register of 296. From the following table it will be seen that two deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one death occurred from other forms of Tuberculosis. 15 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. No other forms of Tuberculosis were notified. 8 of the Pulmonary cases were admitted to Sanatoria.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1956

AGE PERIODS YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	7	8	—	—	1	1	1	—

CANCER—CHIEF OF THE DEATHS

AGES AND PARTS AFFECTED

PARTS AFFECTED	20-30		30-40		40-50		50-60		60-70		70-		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rectum	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	6
Colon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Lung and Bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	1	7
Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	2	1	8
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Caecum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	2	4	1	7	5	26

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED	Y E A R										
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Pneumonia	34	67	21	12	8	2	4	2	4	9	4
Puerperal Sepsis	3	2	—	2	2	1	3	1	3	1	—
Scarlet Fever	56	53	51	16	14	5	37	12	36	41	30
Erysipelas	2	4	6	—	2	—	—	4	3	4	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria incl. Membranous Croup	20	13	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18	16	18	23	18	24	26	33	12	13	15
Other Forms	1	4	3	4	2	—	2	3	4	2	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	21	204	131	154	56	201	41	242	14	318	33
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	68	63	37	77	57	29	100
DEATHS											
Pneumonia	10	8	9	10	3	2	6	—	1	7	7
Puerperal Sepsis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria incl. Membranous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	9	8	5	5	11	4	5	3	1	2
Other Forms	2	2	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1956

Another year has passed,
Seems quicker than the last.
Once more I take my pen
To record my year ten,
To tell you of the things just done,
Of some which were last year begun,
Of things in which we wish to lead
The people that they may take heed
Not alone of food with cheer so ate,
We would indeed e'en educate
Of air, that which we greatly use
To keep us here and let us muse
Indeed, of life, just as we know it
Yet oftentimes we cry " Oh, blow it !"
Because the man next door says " Stow it "
The garden will itself not grow it,
For smoke pours out from chimney tops
and falls to earth in big large drops
To make our land and lung quite sooty,
While man and maid become quite snooty.
O would we try to clean the sky
Who yet would raise the finance cry.
Forgetful that the " life," the " sun "
Is screened by smoke, that triggered gun
Shortening life with loved ones taken
So really now, let's save our bacon
And let us not just trust to luck
While in effect we pass the buck.
Come, no longer play the fool,
Convert your grates to smokeless fuel,
But 'er I go on uncontrolled,
And find my story come unrolled,
I would convey to staff and all
Who, summer, winter, spring and fall,
Have striven very loyally
And carried on right royally

In all the many, many things,
 So seem the days to have had wings.
 To Chairman, colleagues, many thanks,
 For help so given to clear the banks
 of problems which still come around
 Some gay, some sad, some not so sound.
 And I ask of Fifty-Seven
 "Can you yet bring us nearer heaven?"
 "Oh, yes," you say, "Just play your part"
 "But wait," says I, "What's in man's heart."

Sanitary Improvements carried out as a result of Inspections and Notices served, both Informal and Statutory

Dwelling Houses.

Ivy hacked away	.....	.....	.....	1
Quarry floor re-laid	.....	.....	.....	1
Roofs repaired	.....	.....	.....	34
House brickwork re-pointed	.....	.....	.....	18
Chimney stacks re-pointed	.....	.....	.....	9
Chimney pots provided or repaired	.....	.....	.....	9
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	30
Plasterwork repaired	.....	.....	.....	48
Refuse accumulation removed	.....	.....	.....	2
Firegrates repaired	.....	.....	.....	1
Doors repaired	.....	.....	.....	6
Windows repaired	.....	.....	.....	22
Sashcords renewed	.....	.....	.....	30
Floors repaired	.....	.....	.....	25
Ventilation improved	.....	.....	.....	1
Water fittings repaired	.....	.....	.....	15
Backboilers repaired	.....	.....	.....	2
Hot water cylinders renewed	.....	.....	.....	7
Cold water storage tanks repaired	.....	.....	.....	2
Stucco work made good	.....	.....	.....	11
Rising dampness obviated	.....	.....	.....	6
House brickwork re-built	.....	.....	.....	1
Front door canopies made safe	.....	.....	.....	2

Water Closets, Wash-houses, etc.

W.C. apartments re-built	.....	.....	.....	3
Washboilers repaired	.....	.....	.....	2
W.C. pedestals renewed	.....	.....	.....	12
W.C. pedestals repaired	.....	.....	.....	6
W.C. seats provided	.....	.....	.....	5

W.C. cisterns repaired	11
Wash-house roofs repaired	5
Sink waste pipes repaired	5
W.C. conversions carried out	17
W.C. flush pipe repaired	1
Sink waste gully renewed	1
W.C. apartments cleansed	1
Wash hand basins re-fixed	1
Soft water tanks waterproofed	3

Drainage.

Obstructed drains cleared	259
Drains repaired or reconstructed	4
Inspection chamber covers renewed	12
Drain surround made good	2
Soil pipes repaired	7
Rainwater downpipes repaired	27
Blocked gullies and pedestals cleansed	6
Gully grids renewed	2

Letters and Notices sent out.

Preliminary Notices	108
Statutory Notices	11
Letters (all works)	937

Work in Default.

Housing Act, 1936, Public Health Act, 1936 :

Inspection chamber cover provided	1
Drains exposed and repaired	2
Cesspools provided	1

Statutory Notices sent out.

Section 9, Housing Act	11
Section 11, Housing Act	8
Section 12, Housing Act	2
Section 26, Housing Act	43
Section 269, Public Health Act	2
Licences granted	2 (Temporarily)
Licences refused	4
Section 39, Public Health Act	5
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act, Closing Orders	4
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :	
Certificates of Disrepair granted	4
Certificates of Disrepair refused	nil.
Revocations granted	nil.

Infectious Diseases, Disinfection and Disinfestation.

39 cases of Infectious Diseases occurred within the district during 1956 and 77 visits were made in this connection, appropriate disinfestation being carried out upon removal to hospital or termination of infective period. In all, 139 sprayings were carried out including 16 after T.B. removals, 38 for woodworm, 26 for ants, 4 for coachroaches, 5 for fleas, 1 for bugs, and 9 other sprayings, including 3 for lice and 2 disinfection of suits of clothing destined for homes behind the Iron Curtain which action is specified by the Russian Embassy before shipment can take place. A certificate must accompany the clothing.

Towards the end of the year Staffordshire County Council issued a leaflet for guidance of Head Teachers of schools in the County District with regard to exclusions from school in cases of Infectious Disease. A safety rider has been added to the effect that any contact returning to school with running nose or ear discharges must be excluded and sent home.

Poliomyelitis.

I am happy to report that 1956 was a clear year for Wednesfield, although 2 contact cases were interviewed within the district and appropriate isolation measures taken with school contacts.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 154.

5 rag and bone merchants were interviewed in this district, 1 cautioned for exchanging articles with children under 14. In this case the offender was not caught a second time.

Water Sampling.

15 visits were made to wells and pumps throughout the district the water supplies being pure and constant in all cases. Demolition of properties in Sandpit Valley have considerably lessened the number of wells in this district, a total of 5 such wells being filled in and sealed off after demolition.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Section 9

Notices served	.....	.....	.....	11
Outstanding 31/12/56	.....	.....	.....	nil.

Section 10

Repair of Insanitary Dwellings by Local Authority in default of owners.

Default action was taken in two instances of non-compliance the appropriate accounts being rendered to landlords.

Section 66. Overcrowding.

19 visits were made in this connection and overcrowding is now almost non-existent in this area. Coloured people occupy some 6 houses in the district, two of which were statutorily overcrowding at 31/12/56.

Section 11.

Demolition of Insanitary Dwellings incapable of Repair.

TEN YEAR SUMMARY

	1956	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Houses demolished (Total 70 dwellings)	6	—	2	4	—	1	—	—	10	11	21
Standing Void (19)	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	10	—
Still Occupied (7)	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	1

Houses Demolished—Total Premises 70

1947. Nos. 199, 201, Wood End Road. To facilitate Orchard Road Housing Scheme.
1948. Nos. 54, 56, New Street. Nos. 17, 19, Church Street.
1950. "Lake View," Watery Lane. (Conversion to Stabling).
1953. No. 58, New Street. Nos. 341, 343, 345, 347, Wood End Road. Nos. 85, 95, 97, 99 and 105, Lower Prestwood Road, to facilitate Long Knowle Lane Development.
1954. "Hill View," Watery Lane. (Conversion to Business Usage). 4 and 5, Noose Lane. 15, Church Street (new Library site). 1, 2, 3, Bealey's Fold and No. 6, High Street. "Myatt," Caravan, Ashmore Park. 1 and 2, Ashmore Park Cottages to facilitate Ashmore Park Estate developments.
1955. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Bellamy Lane. 6, 7, 8, 9, Orchard Buildings. 163, 165, Wood End Road. 61, 63, Lichfield Road. 19, Taylor Street, Bird and Grosvenor Railway Carriages. 3 and 8, Sandpits. Perry Hall Farm. Wine Shop, Blackhalve Lane.
1956. Back 88, Graisleley Lane. 2 and 3, Canal Side, Rookery Street. 2, 2a, Sandpits. 5 and 7, The Fields, 11, 13, 15, High Street (site of new Bank), 155, 157, Blackhalve Lane. 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, Graiseley Lane. 1 and 2, Prestwood Farm Cottages.

Standing Void—Total Premises 19.

1951. 3, Devil's Elbow, Linthouse Lane.
 1952. 2, Devil's Elbow, Linthouse Lane.
 1953. "Mansfield," Carriage.
 1954. "St. Ivans," Railway Carriage, Watery Lane.
 103, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 145, Wood End Road.
 (Site of new Public House).
 1956. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Linthouse Lane. 51, 53, Lichfield Road.

Demolition Order Operative but still Occupied—Total Premises 7.

1948. 1 and 4, Devil's Elbow, Linthouse Lane.
 1951. Railway Carriage, rear of "Leafern," Neachells Lane.
 1954. 143, Wood End Road. 59, Lichfield Road.
 1955. Spring Cottage, Neachells Lane (Railway Carriage).
 1956. 191, Blackhalve Lane.

To summarise :—

Houses dealt with under Housing Acts			
during 1956	.....	.....	35
Houses demolished	.....	.....	38
No. of persons displaced	.....	.....	157

Section 25. Clearance Areas.

			<i>Persons</i>	
	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Displaced</i>	<i>Demolished</i>
Rookery Street No. 1	1954	1955	1955	1955
March End No. 1	1954	1955	1956	1956
March End No. 2	1954	1955	1955	1956
High Street C.P.O.				
No. 1	1954	1955	1955	1956
Wood End No. 1	1955	1956	1956	1956
Wood End No. 2	1955	1956	1956	1956
Cross Street C.P.O.				
No. 1	1955	1956	1956	1956
Wood End No. 3	1955	—	—	—
Wood End No. 4	1956	—	—	—
Rookery Street No. 2	1956	—	—	—
Rookery Street No. 3	1956	—	—	—

By Agreement with Owners

123—127 Wood End Road	1956	—
2—10 Ridge Lane	1956	1957
31—37, Hall Street	1956	1957

The following areas were declared to be Clearance Areas within the terms of the above Act :—

Wednesfield (Wood End No. 3). Clearance Area, 1956.

93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, Wood End Road. An inquiry was held in connection with the above Act and at the end of the year confirmation was still awaited after re-submission. The original representation in the form of compulsory purchase not being confirmed by Minister.

Wednesfield (Wood End No. 4) Clearance Area, 1956.

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, Linthouse Lane. 252, 260, 262, 264, Wood End Road. After twice being deferred at Committee level, the submission was made at the end of the year, Ministerial confirmation being awaited.

Wednesfield (Rookery Street Nos. 2 and 3) Clearance Area, 1956.

27, 29, 31, 37, 39, 41, 43, Rookery Street. Confirmation was still awaited at the end of the year but due to the dangerous condition at 37 and 39 it was decided to re-house the tenants, written agreements being obtained from the owners not to re-let.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

The following premises were closed as a result of representations under the above Act :—

- 26, Cross Street
- 37, Rookery Street
- Back 20, High Street.

Precautions before Demolition.

32 dwellings were thoroughly disinfested, such treatment proving a highly successful prelude to demolition or closure.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Food Sampling.

The following analysis is of milk and food samples taken in the Wednesfield district by Staffordshire County Council.

Milk.

Milk Sterilised	16
Milk Pasteurised	.....	15
Milk T.T.	.....	2
Milk T.T. Pasteurised		15
Milk T.T. Channel Island		4
		—
		52
		<i>Genuine</i>

General Foods.

Number of samples taken	.....	31
Number of samples genuine	.....	28
Number of samples adulterated	.....	3

Classification of General Foods.

Irish Stew (six samples)
Sweetened Lemonade Powder
Condensed Milk Full Cream Sweetened
Pork Sausage (four samples)
Lemonade Crystals
Lard (two samples)
Strawberries in Heavy Syrup
Welsh Butter
Doughnuts
Pure Malt Vinegar
Beetroot
Aspirin Tablets
Red Cherries in Syrup
Pure Jersey Cream
English Lard
Tea
Plum Pudding
Pickled Onions
Abricoma Sauce
Chocolate
Salt Roasted Peanuts
Frizets (Standard Flavour)

Particulars of Adulterated Samples.

57 C/H—Irish Stew

Informal—Deficient in meat content, contains only
2.8% meat.

32 C/H—Irish Stew

Informal—Deficient in meat content, contains 26.0%
meat, less than other brands.

33 C/J—Irish Stew

Informal—Deficient in meat content, contains 26.0%
meat, less than other brands.

These samples were taken in order that the Public Analyst could make comparisons.

Food Poisoning.

It is very pleasing to note that two cases only of Food Poisoning and one of dysentery were confirmed in the District during 1956. The first case was a 55 year old female and the causative food was suspected to be pressed tongue. A 66 year old labourer was the second case, being a man of doubtful habits and it was reasonably established that this was a case of auto-infection, the food suspected being tinned fish. A total of 25 visits in connection with Food Poisoning were made.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Summary of Types of Food Shops visited :

Groceries	.....	.....	62
Greengroceries	.....	.....	20
Sweets and Tobacco	.....	.....	19
Butchers	.....	.....	20
Fish and Chip Saloons	.....	.....	8
Bakeries	.....	.....	2
Canteens, Cafes	.....	.....	6
School Kitchens	.....	.....	5
Pubs, Theatres, etc.	.....	.....	10

CONTRAVENTIONS DISCOVERED

		Grocers	Butchers	Green Groceries	Fish and Chips	Bakeries	Confectioners	Canteens	Cafes	Clubs	Mobile Vehicles
Premises Insanitary	(R5)	1	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	2
Clean Equipment	(R6)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suitable Containers	(R7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Risk of Contamination	(R8)	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Cleanliness ...	(R9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clean Wrappings	(R10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases	(R11)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soil Drainage	(R12)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Notices not displayed	(R14)	1	1	2	-	-	1	2	2	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences	(R14)	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
No constant hot water	(R15)	8	3	-	1	-	3	1	2	-	-
No wash hand basins	(R16)	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
First Aid Material	(R17)	3	3	2	1	-	2	-	1	-	6
Clothes lockers	(R18)	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Separate Sinks	(R19)	8	6	1	-	-	3	1	2	1	-
Adequate Lighting	(R20)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adequate Ventilation	(R21)	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Intervening ventilated space	(R22)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impervious clean surfaces	(R23)	3	8	2	1	-	2	1	2	-	-
Temperature control on stored food	(R25)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stalls having names displayed	(R26)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Stalls having no washing facilities	(R28)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Nailbrush, towels, soap		3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
General renovation		-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3

Adequate hot water and washing facilities were also secured at a local Carnival prior approach to the Dry Caterers, Licensed caterers and Ice Cream vendors, meeting with an excellent response. Indeed, the initial impact of the Food Hygiene Regulations brought an immediate response from the Food Trade as can be seen from the above figures. Here again a condensed leaflet and explanatory literature, coupled with local press inserts, distributed to all food handlers served to iron out many misgivings shopkeepers had when the Regulations came into force.

Of the 6 unsuitable premises discovered, 5 are now no longer used or vacant and the subject of Clearance Order action, the remaining shop being dismantled in easy stages for transfer to another modern building adjacent. Constant hot water was

secured by installation of hot water geysers or immersion heaters and having regard to observations made a separate metal jug or container, kept in the shop, satisfied the requirements regarding separate sinks for utensil wash.

Mobile vehicles continue to be a pressing problem, but at the end of the year Public Health Officers were still awaiting Ministerial Regulations for enforcement.

Meat Inspection.

Continual vigilance has been maintained throughout the year in respect to the inspection of meat and I am happy to report 100% inspection has been effected. Three slaughterhouses are licensed under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and Section 4(2) of the Slaughterhouses Act of 1954, two of which are more regularly used than the third, this latter one being used for smalls and casualties only at the present moment, being in an area likely to be rebuilt in the future.

The following tables reveal the carcasses handled and the diseases discovered, all unfit meat being removed under the personal supervision of the inspector to a fertilising plant associated with the abattoir in an adjacent County Borough.

In view of the extended hours of slaughtering often undertaken under these circumstances, one looks forward with some speculation to action by the Government in respect to control of hours of slaughter, which contemplated action is being freely spoken of.

January 1st. to December 31st. 1956

Meat Inspection.

Cattle—No. of carcasses inspected 151.

DISEASES	Carcas- es	Head	Lungs	Liver	Heart	Kid- neys	Spleen	Intest- ines	Other
Actinobacillosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	2	1	1	2	—	1	—
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cysticeriasis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses	—	—	2	9	—	—	1	—	—
Presternal Calcification Brisket	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Echinococcus Cysts	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Pigs—No. of carcasses inspected 398.

DISEASES	Carcas- es	Head	Lungs	Liver	Heart	Kid- neys	Spleen	Intest- ines	Other
Tuberculosis	Short Fore	5	2	2	1	—	2	2 {	2 Chumps
Pneumonia	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	2 Legs
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tenuicollis cysts	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ascariides	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Echinococcus	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Abrasions, Rash	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	Skin(1)

Sheep—No. of carcasses inspected 1,114

DISEASES	Carcas- es	Head	Lungs	Liver	Heart	Kid- neys	Spleen	Intest- ines	Other
Muelleriasis	—	—	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Ovis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Thin Skirt
Hydatid Cysts	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	Part Skin
Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tenuicollis	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	Forequart's	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat condemned 5 cwts. 1 qr. 1 st. 3 lbs.

Calves—No. of carcasses inspected..... 16

To summarise :—

Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned	.....	Nil.	Whole carcase condemned	.....	Nil.
Part carcase or offals	.....	10	Part carcase or offal condemned	.....	135
Percentage of all animals slaughtered affected with Tuberculosis	.....	.6%	Percentage of all animals slaughtered affected with other diseases	.....	8.0%

Cysticercosis.

Whole carcase condemned	.....	Nil.
Part carcase or offals	.....	1
Carcase to Refrigeration	.....	1
Percentage of cattle	.....	.65%

Other Diseases.

Whole carcase condemned	.....	Nil.
Part carcase or offal condemned	.....	135
Percentage of all animals slaughtered affected with other diseases	.....	8.0%

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	148	3	16	1,114	398	—
Number inspected	148	3	16	1,114	398	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	44	—	—	64	27	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	29.7% of which 88% was a result of Fascioliasis	0%	0%	5.7%	6.7%	—
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.7%	0%	0%	0%	1.7%	—
Cysticercosis. Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Supplementary Licences issued	Tuberculin Tested	6
Dealers Licences issued	Tuberculin Tested	2

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Supplementary Licences issued	Pasteurised	6
	Sterilized	6
Retail shops licensed	Pasteurised	7
	Sterilized	43

Ice Cream.

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district, but two shops are manufacturing Iced Lollies.

Seven new licences were issued during the year, in all the proviso being made that a wrapped commodity only may be sold. Hot water geysers were required and provided, 41 premises now retail wrapped Ice Cream. 24 visits were made.

Of the samples taken all proved satisfactory.

Fish and Chip Saloons.

There are now 8 registered saloons in the district. One new saloon was registered. One fish and chip saloon was closed. 15 visits were made.

Food Inspection.

The following items of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption as a result of 119 visits.

Tinned Tomatoes	.....	9-lbs. 7 oz.
„ Pineapple	.....	4 lb. 12 oz.
„ Beans and Sausage		8 oz.
„ Peaches	.....	2 lb.
„ Pears	.....	1 lb.
„ Corned Beef	.....	12 oz.
„ Pilchards	.....	15 oz.
„ Butter Beans	.....	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Food found unfit for human consumption, or not of the nature or substance or quality demanded.

The following brief notes cover matters of immediate importance coming to the notice of the department during the course of 1956.

1. A pork pie manufactured by one of the reputable nation-wide distributors of the commodity was brought to the office, found to be unfit for human consumption by reason of extensive mould and dehydration. Contact was made with the manufacturers' representatives in the area and with the co-operation of my colleague in a neighbouring authority the stock of the shop of sale was checked over. Concensus of opinion was that there had been some breakdown in rotational sales which had, in fact, caused a very old and stale pie to be available for sale to the public. The Public Health Committee viewed this as a first offence and issued a very strong warning of action being undertaken should any similar occurrence arise in the future.
2. A consignment of split peas with weevil infestation was surrendered to the office, the distributors being located in the local County Borough of Wolverhampton and I am again grateful to my colleague, the Chief Public Health Inspector there, for co-operation in investigating the matter. Representatives of the firm concerned, of the suppliers, of the two Health Departments, held consultation in regard to the matter and a further quantity of split peas was found in the warehouse of the distributors, which were impounded by my colleague, pending satisfactory undertaking from the suppliers of their disposal. This position obtained at the year end.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

Correspondence was in hand at the end of the year with the Birmingham and District Dairymen's Association, whose area the Wednesfield district covers, in respect to the increasing habit of dairymen leaving crates of empty bottles and loose crates around the district in various spots, such being the delight of small boys and the bottles are invariably broken, then becoming the dread of elderly folk with a danger of tripping and falling over the crates, often left in dark spots.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

The Strange Story of Herbert Harris.

Herbert Harris, 66 year old vagrant had lived for many, many years upon partly waste land in a shelter made of old tin sheeting,

living entirely on his own and existing by means of tatting. He refused to have any contact with normal life and no information could be obtained during his lifetime of there being any relatives. His body was discovered in early December and being without visible means of support became the responsibility of the Local Authority to effect burial.

Mortuary.

During the year a total of 26 bodies have been admitted to the Council's Mortuary and post mortem results revealed the following causes of death :—

Suffocation of Infants	.....	3
Natural Causes	.....	4
Suicide (Gas Poisoning)	.....	3
Suicide (Hanging)	.....	1
Suicide (Poison)	.....	1
Gas Poisoning	.....	1
Silicosis	.....	1
Thrombosis	.....	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	.....	3
Epileptic Fit	.....	1
Accident (Shock)	.....	1
Drowning (Accidental)	.....	2
Stillborn	.....	1

Housing of Coloured Workers.

During the course of the year there has been an increase of 4 houses becoming occupied by coloured workers, making a total of 6 in the district which are being kept under surveillance. Towards the end of the year the Local Authorities in the West Midlands got together and formed the Commonwealth Welfare Council of the West Midlands with aims and objects of helping Commonwealth immigrants to this country in their settlement in the conurbation and in work amenable to them. In addition to representatives of local authorities, organizations interested and concerned with Commonwealth people are members of this Welfare Council, it being hoped to obtain a Liaison Officer to move among the colonial people and to be able to interpret their particular outlook in this country.

Smoke Abatement.

We must begin to consider the elimination of the pollution of the atmosphere and the removal of the name " smoke abatement " to give the same drive in thought towards a clean atmosphere. With the passing of the Clean Air Act in 1956, although lacking in

some respects the enforcement power that one would like to see for the recalcitrant individuals one meets in all walks of life, there is no doubt that with the Statute now approved there is certainly an awakening by all sections of the community likely to be affected in any way, and one feels that the impetus towards clean air will gain momentum. It is hoped that financial commitments will not in any way become a brake on such progress.

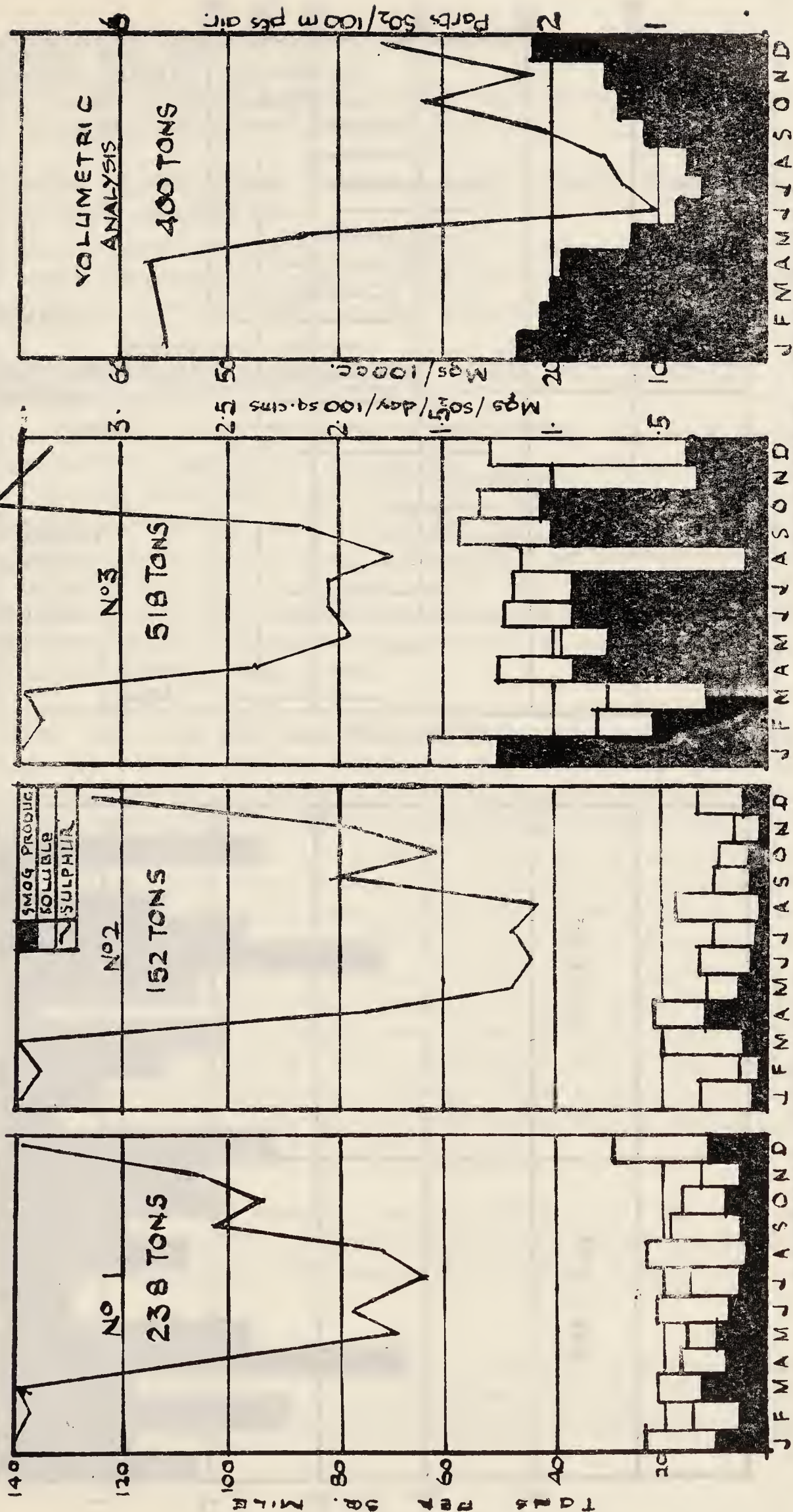
In the normal observations carried on throughout the district one is becoming increasingly aware of a smoke conscious public, noticing now that which, in the past, has been accepted as a matter of course and I am happy to report that some of the difficulties of 1955 which were ironed out by negotiation and experimentation, have not reared their ugly heads during the year and it is pleasing to note that oil fired annealing ovens are now satisfactorily functioning as a rule rather than as the exception, without complaint.

A heat treatment firm using cyanide in the process has efficiently maintained the small scrubbing plant recommended again without complaint during the year. There is still a problem, however, in respect to the control of ferric oxide fumes from a converter plant in a steelworks and it is unfortunate that the Clean Air Act by virtue of the clauses therein respecting the final decision as to the responsibility for such plant has in fact created a vacuum of indecision in the minds of many people. I make bold to say that there is no nuisance which cannot be cured—at a cost! The sting, of course, is in the tail and the financial requirements of apparatus are costly. It is hoped, however, that from my many contacts in connection with this particular problem, that one day a reasonably economical solution will be forthcoming, but then even economy may not be a factor as the Clean Air Act becomes more readily understood.

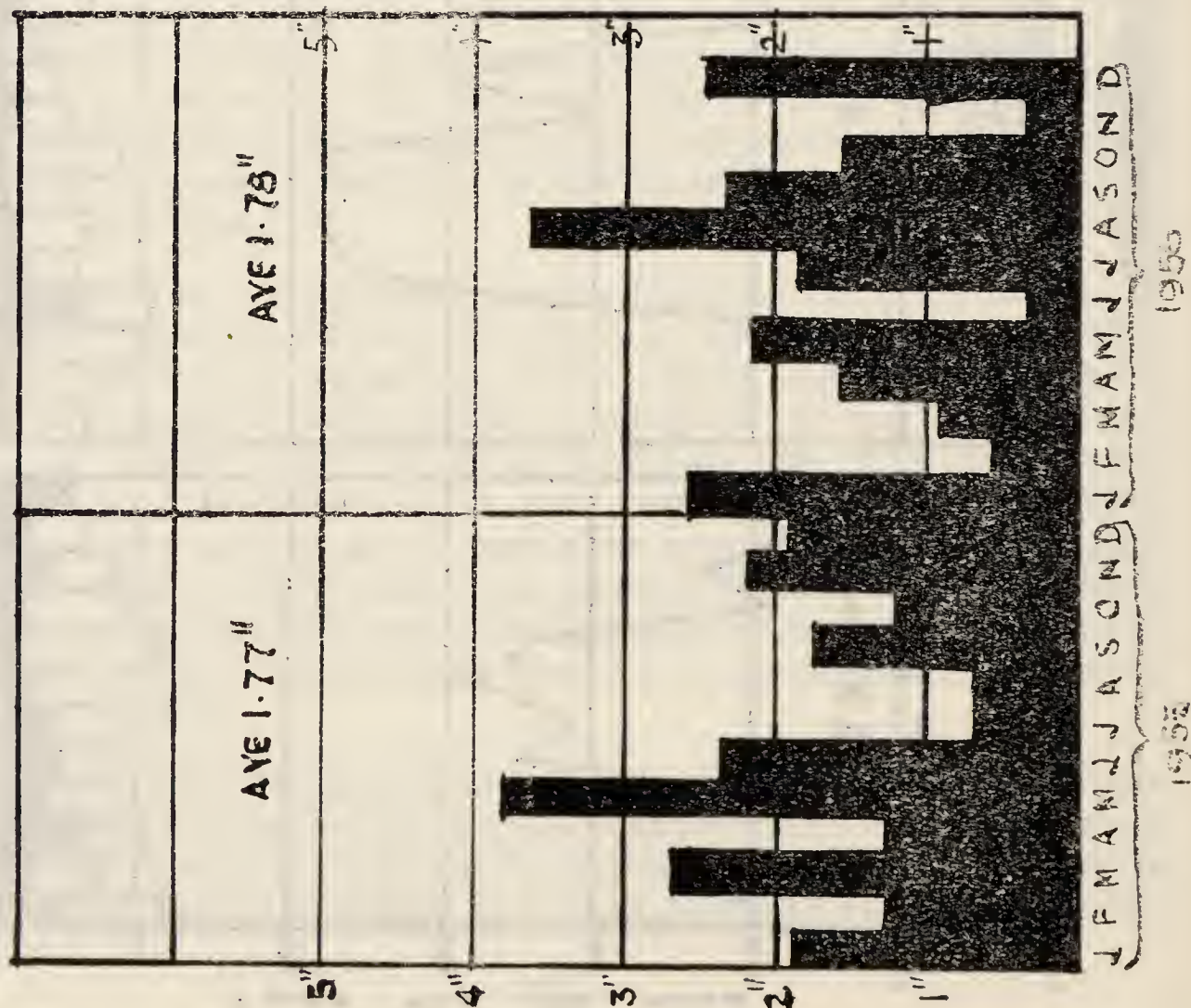
A study of the following graphs depicting the pollution of the deposit gauges situated at three points in the district still show that there is an average reduction of the visible smoke concentration, but some increase in the sulphur pollution. It can be seen, too, that the winter months have a greater density than the summer months, this being caused by more regular domestic fire burning during winter and it can be seen that generally, July and August are the lowest return, when both domestic and industrial activity is less by reason of the industrial holidays coinciding with warmer weather, at least warm enough for the average person not to have a fire in the home.

Much education is going to be necessary to persuade the average Englishman to change from a traditional coal fire, but there seems a selfishness in such outlook which desires one's own feet to be warm while contributing probably to the early demise of another fellow-citizen.

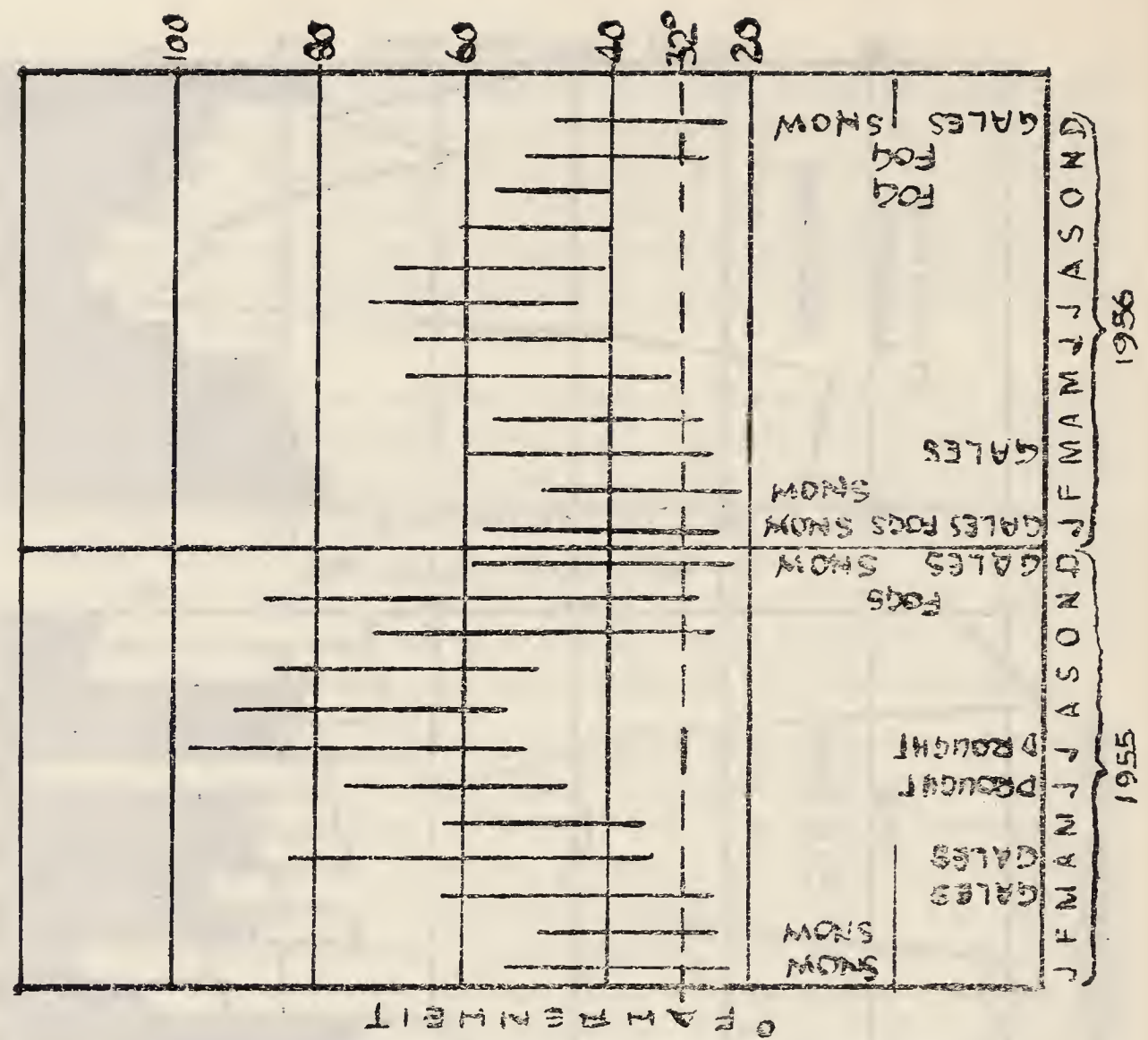
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION 1956



AVERAGE RAINFALL



WEATHER CONDITIONS



Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Only one premise remains re-licensed in this connection, conditions being maintained very satisfactorily.

Registration of Old Metal Dealers. Public Health Amendments Act, 1907—Section 86.

Three dealers are registered under this section and operate in the district, surveillance having been maintained throughout the year, in full co-operation with the local Police Inspector.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269. Tents, Vans, Sheds and Caravans.

The Council's caravan site on Ashmore Park continued to be well maintained during the closing part of its life in the area. Town Planning permission expired at the end of 1956 for the use of this ground and notices were served for the removal of caravans then sited thereon as the area was now required for housing development during the course of the year no new licences were granted, four applications being refused and at the end of the year 5 occupied caravans remained on the site, there being 11 originally at the commencement of the year.

Some difficulty was experienced during the year in three instances by people moving caravans onto unlicensed land, the Council wisely refusing to agree to accede to pressure put upon them to licence temporarily the land on which the caravan was sited because of the extremity of the position which the occupant found himself. In two such cases as this, after extended negotiation and consultation with farmer-caravan dweller, his employer and other interested parties, it was found that he was in fact not married to the girl he had with him by whom he had three children, and although help was offered for this man to move temporarily on the Ashmore Park site, while he looked around for other accommodation, he refused same. Following Court proceedings, with a time factor given him, seven days before the final date when he had to remove, he left the caravan with the girl and the young family and in fact within ten days got married to another person.

One such caravan dweller removed from a site in another authority but accepted the temporary help of the authority and was one of the five occupying caravans on the Ashmore Park site.

Gypsies.

Gypsies have made their periodic excursion into the Urban District of Wednesfield, but invariably have been moved on quite amicably, there being no untoward incident or difficulty arising during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Activity has been maintained throughout the year and an increase of infestations has been discovered with the building of new housing estates, it having been found that rats do in fact get into the cavity of the buildings, being sealed therein when the doorstep is finally made good and having completed their store of food often obtained from scraps left about by the building workers, find an access into the roof space or the pantry through the plaster-mesh air vent and disturb tenants occupying the building. Effective treatment, however, has been carried out in each instance and after a while no further complaint arises from the individual premise treated.

Contact was made with the building firms in respect to the activity of their workmen and an effective liaison has been maintained which has offset in a fair proportion the increasing complaints of this nature.

Two annual contracts have been maintained throughout the year, the notification having been received to terminate the one contract with respect to the War Department property. Surveillance will be maintained and contact made with the appropriate authorities as occasion demands.

Good co-operation has been maintained with the occupiers of business premises who have been happy to meet the cost of eradicating their premises of rodents.

The tables give details of such activity undertaken.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for period 1st January to 31st December, 1956.

1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

	Total (i)	Number of Properties in Local Authority's Area in which Infestation was				Analysis of Column (iv)		
		Notified by Occupier (ii)	Otherwise discovered (iii)	Recorded Total of (ii) & (iii) (iv)	Number infested by			
					Rats		Mice only (vii)	
					Major (v)	Minor (vi)		
Local Authority's Property	4	2	—	2	1	—	1	
Dwelling House (<i>Estimate</i>)	7,000	162	32	194	11	112	71	
Business Premises	284	9	2	11	3	6	2	
Agricultural Property	15	—	3	3	2	1	—	
TOTAL	7,303	173	37	210	17	119	74	

2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	No. of Properties inspected	No. of Inspections made	Number of Notices served under Section 4		Number of Treatments carried out			Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement			
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with occupier		Under Section 5 (1)	No. of Blocks	Surface	Assoc. Sewers	No. of Man-holes treated
					Rats	Mice only					
Local Authority's Property	4	8	—	—	76	15	—	—	—	—	—
Dwelling House	276	386	—	—	247	208	—	54	112	76	76
Business Premises	90	110	—	—	64	35	—	2	14	—	—
Agricultural Property	3	3	—	—	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	373	507	—	—	441	258	—	56	126	76	76

The estimated kill for the whole 12 months is as follows :—

Business Premises	64 rats.	35 mice.
Private Dwellings	247 "	208 "
Urban District Council Premises	76 "	15 "

These figures do not include agricultural premises where dismantled ricks would add to the estimated kill.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**Slaughter of Animals Amendments Act, 1954.****Prevention of Cruelty Regulations, 1954.**

One new slaughter licence and 11 renewals were approved, making a total of 12 licensed slaughtermen in the district. In each case a copy of the above regulations was enclosed and the new licensee was observed in action prior to approval. None are licensed to slaughter horses.

Shops Act, 1950.

202 shops are on the register of the Urban District, all being satisfactorily maintained against the requirements of the Shops Act. Observations have been maintained in respect to closing hours and to Sunday trading. In the main, the closing hours and Sunday trading restrictions are being observed. It was, however, necessary to bring to the notice of the Committee the activity of mobile traders selling after hours and in each case a warning letter was sent which had a solutary effect, such warning letters being in fact the second warning received by the traders concerned, one warning having been given by the department on the previous occasion. Should prosecution, therefore, be undertaken it means that it is the third offence against the Act and in the case of such repeated contravention the Committee are resolved to prosecute.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Applications were received for three Certificates of Disrepair during the year and in each case were granted, work still remaining outstanding in respect to each Certificate at the end of the year.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 47.

During the year 17 waste water closets were converted to the orthodox water carriage system at no cost to the Council, there still being however, probably 300 waste water and chemical closets in the district, and it is with optimistic desire to wipe these out that I welcome the progress made on the enlargement to our sewage works which are now well under way. Upon completion of the sewage works scheme an all our effort will be made to complete the conversion of these out of date, unsatisfactory conveniences.

Population.

Rough figures and estimates are maintained in regard to the estimated population of the district incorporating the influx population as a result of the Overspill Building Scheme, and agreement with the County Council and the County Borough of Wolverhampton. I estimate the population of the district at the year end to be 24,355.

Inspection of Factories—Factories Act, 1937.

Continued inspections of factory premises in the area reveal a high standard maintained in the requirements under the Act and the following tables give details of the matters receiving attention.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Factories Act 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS

for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	64	9	—
Factories without mechanical power	3	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	10	—	—
TOTAL	77	9	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) insufficient	2	1	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	3	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	2	1	—	—
TOTAL	9	5	—	—

